



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

21 May 2006

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Methodist Church & the Church of England in Partnership at both
Putnoe Heights Church & St. Mark's Church



Church of
England

Church Services Today

8.30 Holy Communion both churches
9.30am St Mark's Church - Holy Communion
 Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley
 Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard
 Intercessions - Mrs Pat Leusby
11.00am Putnoe Heights - Holy Communion
 Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley
 Leadership Team - Mr Dave Allen
 Intercessions - Mrs Betty Wyatt

The Rev Dr Sam Cappleman will be taking services
this morning at Haynes and Campton

28 May - Seventh Sunday of Easter

8.30 Service of Holy Communion
9.30am St Mark's Church -
 Preacher - Rev Charles Royden
 Leadership - Mr Ian Farthing
 Intercessions - Mrs Mary Stubbs
11.00am Putnoe Heights -
 Preacher - Rev Charles Royden
 Leadership Team - Mrs Jenny Emsley
 Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen
Reading 1 : Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Reading 2 : 1 John 5: 9-13
Reading 3 : John 17: 6-19

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week
have been given by Bill De Boltz in memory of his
wife, Peggy.

The flowers at St Mark's Church have been given
by Sue & Ian Jones to celebrate their silver
wedding anniversary..

Prayer for Sunday

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always
more ready to hear that we to pray, and give
more than either we desire or deserve. Pour
down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our
conscience is afraid and giving us those good
things which we are not worthy to ask, save
through the merits and mediation of Jesus
Christ your Son our Lord; who is alive and
reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.
Methodist Worship

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman
 107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
 266952 Fax- 402624 NSM@ThisisChurch.com
 (Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

The Reverend Neil Bramble-Chapman BA, CTM
 (Day off Friday)
 12 Hartop Close, Putnoe. MK41 8HE
 326643 Mobile -07917 356062 Minister@ThisisChurch.com

The Reverend Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)
 30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.
 Home 344536 Crossley@Thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)
 The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
 309175 Mobile 07973 113861 Vicar@ThisisChurch.com

Partnership Youth and Children's Worker
 Mrs Liz Spavins 302349 youth@thisischurch.com

For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in
Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website.

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com
*Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved,
housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services.
Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.*

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open 9am - 12 noon Monday & Friday
9am - 5pm Tuesday/Wednesday & Thursday
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630
Leadership Team - Mr Alan Bayliss 268101
Treasurer Mrs Kathryn Morse 216428
 Treasurerph@Thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186
Junior Church Co-ordinator - Mrs Liz Spavins 302349

St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5.00pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mrs Janet Day 295592
Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@Thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

Partnership News is also archived on our church website
www.ThisisChurch.com

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.30 - 12.00 pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school Mrs Janet Smith 326685

8.30 - 5.30 pm Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

(See website for more details)

9.00 am Clubhouse at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater 315460.

Mini-Strikers Sport for Children at Putnoe aged 2-4 years. Contact Andy Carey 01908 313751 or 07766 142754, or www.ministrikers.co.uk

12.00pm - 1.00pm Story box Putnoe Heights church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible story, singing and activities. Lots of fun, donations. Contact Liz on 01234 302349

4pm Story Box Plus at St. Marks for 4 -11 year olds meet at 3.30. for refreshments & games, then till 5pm make props, sing & rehearse a short play to perform in church the 1st Sunday of each month. Lots of fun. Free. Contact Liz 302349

4.15pm - Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness. Putnoe Heights. Miriam Adcock 01908 565044

4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths at Putnoe Heights. Contact Ms Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 826190

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Penny Fulham 406045

7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild meets first Monday every month at St. Mark's Mrs Pauline Parrott 768419

7.15 m Guides -St. Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091

7.15pm Yoga at Putnoe Heights Church. Contact Karen Simpson 244970

7.30pm Creative Needles at Putnoe Heights. Jacky Hayward 307648. New members welcome.

7.30pm Whist Drive - At St Mark's each month the next 19 June Mrs. Judith Stanton. 823313

7.30pm Housegroup 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567.

8.00pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field 404976

Tuesday

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework) at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Olive Shotbolt 267203

10.00am Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Stileman 822230

1.30-3pm Toddlers Playtime at Putnoe Heights. Geraldine Skeel 406828

9.30am -12.30 & 4 - 9pm Slimming World at St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg 351223

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. at Putnoe Heights meets monthly. Contact Morag Tompkins 356895

2 - 5pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship - Next meeting 23 May Members. What's in a name? Contact Betty Wyatt 350188.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next meeting 23 May. Members afternoon Study Paper 2 Churches in Rural Communities. contact Lawrence Wyatt 350188.

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225

2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. Mary Stubbs 406784.

3.45 - 5.30pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 0582468.

6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga at Putnoe Heights. Rachel Leontyne 783129

6.45pm Guides at Putnoe Heights. Emma Holloway 293792

7.00 - 8.00 pm Keep Fit at St. Mark's. Mrs Jan Gregory 214107.

7.00 - 10pm Card Makers Club meets fortnightly at St Mark's. Carol Houghton 346718

7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church at Putnoe Heights. Bible study & prayers. Revd.Tarr on 360188 or 07866775515

7.30pm Dog and Puppy Training at Putnoe Heights. Contact Lynn Southwell 07974 743240

7. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 30 May. Talk about Royal Ladies. Cecil Parry. Contact Madge Walsh 359088

8.30pm St Mark's Church Qi Gong. Contact Mrs D Steele 356384

Wednesday

9.30am Childminding Support Group at Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman 313949

9.30am - Body Control Pilates at Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787.

9.00 a.m. Clubhouse at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Contact Karen Bywater 315460.

10.00 am Holy Communion at St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.

10am Sewing & Chat Putnoe Heights Contact Valerie Russell 01462 815966

Luncheon Club at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 31 May Putnoe 365630

1 - 3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

1.30 - 4.00pm. Bridge Club for the Retired at St. Mark's. Mrs Truss Boyce 781133

2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights . Mrs Webster 856966

4.15pm - Kumon Maths at Putnoe Heights Ms Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

6.00pm Self Defence at Putnoe Mr James 07711 687449

6.00 pm Brownies at St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden 219731

7.00pm Bunyan Bridge at St. Mark's. Brian Sallows 407725

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society

meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Next meeting .
 Sylvia Woods 365095
7pm Putnoe Guild meets monthly at Putnoe
 Heights. Janice Loxley 347073
7.45pm Kick Boxing Junior classes at St Mark's.
 Contact Mr James 07711687449 or 07810234890
7.45pm Badminton Club at Putnoe Heights - all
 welcome. Ken Marriott 214867

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group at Putnoe Heights
 in the quiet room. Sylvia Cohen 343424 *Request for
 prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the
 information table.*

9.30am Jo Jingles at St. Mark's. Music & movement
 for pre-school children. Jayne Phillips 01582 485333

9.45am Yoga at Putnoe Heights. Karen Simpson
 244970

1.30pm - 3.00pm Clinic at St. Mark's 267444

12pm Story box St Mark's Church welcome the
 under 5's and their carers to join them between 12
 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a
 Bible story, singing and activities. Lots of fun,
 donations. Contact Liz Spavins on 302349

1.30-3pm Toddler Playtime at Putnoe. Geraldine
 Skeel 406828

1.30pm St. Mark's Church Toddler Group.
 Debbie Coppenhall 356828.

2pm - Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer 345991

2pm U3A Indoor Games at Putnoe Radmila Dancer
 404811

4.00 Story box Plus at Putnoe Heights for 4-11 year
 old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till
 5pm make props, sing & rehearse a short play to
 perform in church on the 1st Sunday of each month
 Lots of fun And it's free! Liz Spavins 302349

5.30 - 7.30pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

6.15 pm Weightwatchers at St. Mark's.
 Mrs Margaret Ralph 01767 224978.

6.15pm Brownies at Putnoe Helga Nash 218521

6.15pm Bedford Junior Chess Club. St. Mark's
 Mr & Mrs Pike 823795

7pm Street Dance at Putnoe Heights. Contact Curtis
 Ritchie 349255 or 07984 525147

7.00pm Club 2000 at Putnoe Mrs M White 404992

7.30pm - 11.00pm Bedford Senior Chess Club at
 St Mark's Mr P Housden 376597

7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderer's Guild at St Mark's
 3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs E Rigby 344442

7.30 - 9.30 Tabernacle of Truth Church at Putnoe
 Bible Studies every 2 Thursday– Pastor Tarr 360188

7.45pm. Housegroup- Meets fortnightly at 3 Little
 Headlands. Newcomers always welcome. Betty
 Wyatt 350188

8.00 - 10pm Bedford Writers Circle at St Mark's
 1st Thursday each month. Mr John Broadhouse
 740271

Friday

9.30am U3A Exercise at Putnoe Heights. Carole
 Maunder 301325

9.00 am Clubhouse at St. Mark's for those with
 Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater 315460.

1.30 - 2pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe.
 Contact Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 582468

2pm U3A Gardening Group at Putnoe Heights.

6pm Self Defence at Putnoe. Mr James 0771
 687449 or 07810 234890

7.30pm Youth Club for age 13-18 at St Mark's
 Church. Contact PCSO Rowland Gilbey 349179

Saturday

9.30 - 11.30am Stars School of Dance at Putnoe.
 Contact Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 582468

10.00am - 1.00pm Theatre Train at St Mark's –
 dancing acting, singing. - Kate Randle 01234 782414

2.30pm Calligraphy Group at Putnoe. Meets
 monthly next meeting. Philip Jones 350295

7.15pm - 10.30pm Duplicate Bridge at St Mark's
 Contact Ann or Peter 212066

Sunday

Junior Church with crèche for under 3's

9.30 - 10.30 at St. Mark's

11-12 at Putnoe Heights.

1 - 4pm Tabernacle of Truth Church at Putnoe
 Heights - Worship. Contact Revd. Tarr 360188 Mob.
 07866775515

6.00pm TNT (The Nearly Teens) meet fortnightly at
 Putnoe Heights for various fun activities. Contact
 Putnoe Office 365630

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council 14 June, 11 Oct
Circuit Meeting 8 June

St Mark's Leadership Team – 6 June, 12 Sept
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 12 July

St Mark's Church Management Meeting
Putnoe Heights Management -

Putnoe Church Council 12 June, 9 Oct
Pastoral Group Meeting –

Churchyard Committee - 5 June 11a.m

Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting- .

Partnership Council - 19 Sept

Brickhill Parish Council -

Deanery Meeting St Mary's Eucharist 22 June, 14
 September, 16 November at St Mark's

Annual Congregational Meetings

3pm St Mark's, 4pm Putnoe Heights

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth - , 28 June

**Calendar dates appear on our church website
 www.ThisChurch.com. Please advise St Mark's
 Church Office of the dates of your meetings.**

**This is my
commandment
that you**



**one another
as I have
loved you.**

John 15.12



Sixth Sunday of Easter

Opening Verses of Scripture Psalm 51:17

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart
He will not despise

A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples: help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the Father.
Common Worship Shorter Collect

First Bible Reading - Acts 10:44-48

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water?

They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

(Reader: This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - 1 John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ, is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. This is the one who came by water and blood--Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

(Reader : This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Third Reading - John 15:9-17

(Please stand for the Gospel. When the Gospel is announced - '**Glory to Christ our Saviour**')

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other.

(Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ. **All: Praise to Christ our Lord**)

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

Hymns (*Please distribute Hymns & Psalms and Holy Communion booklets*)

1. Mine eyes have seen the glory 242, **2.** Give me joy in my heart 492 **3.** There's a wideness in God's mercy 230 **4.** Lo, he comes with clouds descending 241

Commentary

In my sermon today I will invite you to focus on just a small part of the passage from the Gospel according to John. After Jesus has given his Great Command “love one another as I have loved you”, he goes on to exhort his followers that they should “bear much fruit”. The words continue the metaphor, begun at the start of chapter fifteen, of Jesus as the True Vine. In this imagery, Jesus was drawing upon the writings of the prophet Ezekiel (15:1-8). The language of the vine and the useless branches would thus have been familiar to Jesus’ listeners, but what is new is that Jesus identifies himself as the Vine, from which all life and fruitfulness stems. Scholars argue a great deal as to what that word “fruit” means. I have chosen to consider only one aspect of being fruitful Christians: of living out the Gospel in loving practical service to God and to our sister and brother humans. But we must note that we serve, not because it makes us feel good or to impress others, but because we are branches of the True Vine and because we depend on that Vine, our thoughts and actions do not glorify ourselves but Him. Being fruitful Christians is entirely rooted in being prayerfully dependent on the inspiration of God, in every aspect of our lives and work.

Coming as it does, straight after Jesus’ injunction to love one another, I take the phrase to mean that Jesus is warning us that love is not just about *feeling*, but acting upon that feeling. It is no good loving your child, if you don’t also feed it, clean it or relate to it. Love is what you do, not merely an emotional state. Jesus’ own ministry was a combination of healing, praying, teaching and serving. We must strive for a similar balance in our service to God. *Joan Crossley*

Meditation. Julian of Norwich had a lot to say about love. Her book “Revelations of Divine Love” was based on her mystical experiences which began with a grave illness in 1373. She experienced a series of mystical “showings”, visions, which were later written down by her admirers. Her visions are of God’s surpassing love for us, and present a tender, intimate portrait of Jesus that many find profoundly moving. She lived in an anchorites cell, but seekers after spiritual guidance could come and consult her through a window. Her advice was always practical and pithy as well as deeply rooted in God’s word. In our time Julian’s words resonate with us, perhaps far better than they did in her own time, when the Church taught that God was prone to anger and inclined to punish. This is what she wrote: ‘There is no wrath in God....It is the most impossible thing that can be that God would be angry, for wrath and friendship are two opposites.’ Does it change your perception of God, if you view Him as a friend? Not as Lord, Master, Teacher, Saviour (although of course God is all these things too!) but seeing God as a friend brings Him very close to us indeed. Real friends are interested in the details of our lives, they do not mind sharing our darkest thoughts and are companions in our worst times. God wants to be that kind of friend to us, but we often distance God, by pushing him on to a throne far away. *Joan Crossley*

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

“O Fountain of Love, love Thou our friends and teach them to love thee with all their hearts, that they may think and speak and do only such things as are pleasing to thee. Though Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (*St Anselm*)

From [Prayers from the Ark](#), the Ox’s prayer.

“Dear God, give me time. Men are always so driven! Make them understand that I can never hurry. Give me time to eat, Give me time to plod. Give me time to sleep. Give me time to think. Amen (*Carmen Bernos de Gasztold*)

“O Saviour Christ, we beseech you, when the wind is boisterous and our faith weak, and we begin to sink although we wish to come to You. Stretch out Your hands, Lord, as you did to Your fearful disciple and say to the sea of our difficulties, “peace, be still”. Amen (*Dean Vaughan*)

O Beauty, so ancient and so new! Late have I loved you though you were always with me. You call to my heart. You burst through my deafness. You scatter my blindness. I draw breath at your fragrance. My heart pants for you. My soul hungers for you. You touch me and I am consumed at the thought of your peace. *St Augustine, 354-430*

Loving God, when we grow weary, undisciplined or unexpectant and cease to pray, help us to see that prayer is not a burden or demand but your precious gift. Remind us of all who pray with us on earth and in heaven and of Jesus Christ our great High Priest, who ever lives to make intercession for us. Then with faith reawakened, hope restored and love renewed, turn us again to share in the ministry of prayer for the salvation of all people, for this is both our calling and your longing. Amen. *Leo Osborn*



Churches Together in England Forum
The Glory of God..... human beings fully alive

John Stubbs reports back from the Forum, which is the gathering of representatives of all the churches in membership in Churches Together in England (CTE), county representatives and people from a wide range of Bodies in Association (including Christian Aid, Cafod, L'Arche, YMCA and others). They met at the Swanwick conference centre over the weekend of

12-14th May. About 400 people gathered for this triennial conference of CTE.

Unlike most of the previous forums which I have attended, this was not a decision making occasion, although at the end we had identified major themes for the work of the ecumenical body over the next three years. Rather it was intended to “celebrate the glory of God in all the variety, creativity and potential of human life and explore ways in which we can do this together, as people of the Gospel”.

It was a packed weekend in which we talked and discussed in seminars and plenary. We worshipped in small and large groups, during the course of the General Secretary’s report, in an Anglican Eucharist (“Feasting with Friends” presided over by the Bishop of Peterborough) and in an Armenian Orthodox Communion (“Sharing the Bread of Life” led by Bishop Nathan Hovhannisian). We heard a keynote address by Revd. Tom Stuckey, (President of the Methodist Conference), an amazingly wide ranging survey of life and religious affairs in England by Bill Snelson the General Secretary of CTE, a reflection during the Eucharist by Rev John Rackley (the Forum moderator), a masterly summing up of what he had heard over the weekend by Revd Peter Whitaker (of the CTE Enabling Group and Chair of the West Yorkshire Methodist District) and a sermon by Archbishop Rowan Williams as part of the final worship. We sang to the sound of flute and violin and piano!

Let me recall a few of the many moments which stay in my memory. Tom Stuckey telling us that Western liberal theology was dead and being replaced by Southern fundamentalism. (none of us were sure whether he was tongue in cheek!) and hearing him major on concerns for the environment. Rowan Williams talked of one of his favourite hymns which had raised the chapel roof, “Guide me O thou great Jehovah” and saying that those who sang “feed me till I want no more” had got it wrong- it was more correct theologically to sing “feed me now and evermore”. Peter Whitaker reminded us that the children in his wife’s primary school were four generations away from formal teaching about the faith and that we were in a missionary situation such as the church had not known in many years.

The forum was a chance to meet again ecumenical friends such as. Rev David Lavender, Methodist minister and Dean of Telford, working in one diocese and paid by another! Or to meet new ones such as Dr Mangala Frost, an Indian born Hindu, now Christian and married to an Englishman, the proud member of the Antiochian Orthodox Church which claims justly to be the oldest church in the world; or Sonia Baron a Jamaican lady working in race relations for the Church of England.

But the memory which I think will linger in many minds above all was of hearing about a turgid discussion among world church leaders, who began to talk about what they would do over the next ten years, which was electrified by the Bishop from Bangladesh who reminded them if there was nothing done about climate change his country would no longer exist. And the Bishop of the South Pacific who smiled ruefully knowing that he had even less time in islands only a few metres above sea level. We came away knowing that, for the glory of God to be fulfilled by human beings being fully alive, we, the churches, had to take the issues of climate and change as an imperative

The Glory of God.....human beings fully alive. *John Stubbs.*

News, Views and Information

Annual Moody & Sankey Evening at Park Road on Sunday 4 June at 6.30pm. If you would like to choose a hymn let Bill Davies or Jenny Clifford (404644) know by 29.5.06. If you would like to say a few words about your choice you are welcome to but it is not compulsory. Everyone is welcome to come for a rousing sing. Jenny Clifford.

Fairtrade Fashion Show Sunday 21 May, 4pm at Christ Church Halls, Dudley Street.

Putnoe Heights grass cutting rota is on the notice board. Anyone who can help please sign up, it would be much appreciated. Thank you.

Footprints Rambling Group invite you to join them Sunday 21 May for a 4 mile circular walk around Stevington. Meet at 2.30pm in car park of the Royal George. As car parking is limited, please share cars where possible. Sue & Richard Butler 354183.

Footprints Rambling Group invite you to join them on Sunday, 21st May for a 4-mile circular walk around Stevington. Please meet at 2.30pm in the car park of the Royal George. The entrance to the car park is in Court Lane, but as parking space is limited, car-sharing wherever possible would help. Parts of the walk could be muddy if the weather has been wet. Further details from Sue and Richard Butler on Bedford 354183.

T.T.T. (The Emergency Relief Fund). Thanks to the generosity of those who save their small coins, a cheque for £300 has been sent to Oxfam for use in the East African Appeal. Anyone interested in helping this fund can speak to the collector on the door at Puntoe each Sunday morning.

The Garden of Remembrance is going to be "open" on the 4 June, 2.30 - 4.30pm in aid of the Retirement Education Centre. If you could help in any way such as serving teas, showing people round or baking tray bakes beforehand, please contact Marion Prior 303254 a.s.a.p.

There will be an evening working party on 1st June 6pm till dark, to do any last minute tidying, deadheading etc. Please bring own equipment as church tools and kneelers are limited!

Tuesday Club Charity Evening. Many thanks to all who came to this enjoyable event. We are able to send £380 for the work of the Anglian Air Ambulance Service.

Medical Supplies for Kisizzi

Thank you to all who have sponsored Hannah on the Three Peaks Challenge and generously given

money so that she can take medical supplies out with her to Kisizzi next month. Unfortunately when her brother Thomas was driving up to meet with Hannah to provide the transport between the three peaks, he was involved in an accident on the motorway when he was hit from behind which meant that the challenge could not be undertaken as planned. With all the other arrangements that need to be made it appears that it will not be possible to fit in this challenge before Hannah leaves for Kisizzi. In the light of this if you have already given me your sponsorship money 'in advance' and would like it returned please let me know. Alternatively, if you are happy for your contributions to be used to buy medical supplies, irrespective of whether the challenge was completed or not, there is no need to do anything as supplies will be bought with the money contributed. Thank you once again for all your generous support.

Grand Opening of the St Albans Diocesan Resources centre at St Mark's Chapel by the Right Revd. Richard Inwood Bishop of Bedford July 5th 2006, 3.30 – 6pm. We have over 500 books, twenty artefact boxes, plus videos and ICT materials on a range of faiths. By June we will have new Bedfordshire Agreed Syllabus unit boxes and Diocesan boxes of artefacts which will be available from a room upstairs in St. Mark's community centre, with access to a television, DVD, video player and internet. All RE books, Collective Worship resources and Foundation and KS1 artefacts will be housed in the chapel. A website is currently being designed, so Bedfordshire and Luton schools will be able to search and order items to borrow.

Are you considering fostering as a way to positively influence the life of a child? You are not alone! Here are some comments from people across the diocese who have been involved in fostering and have been part of making a difference in the lives of so many children.

Do come along and find out more about fostering on Wednesday 14 June at 7.00 p.m. A light supper will be provided as well as the opportunity to meet with experienced foster carers and people from the Herts County Council Foster Care Unit. If you are coming, please let us know by contacting Valerie Geldard on 01727 851748 or send an e-mail to Valerie.geldard@stalbans.anglican.org

Accommodation wanted. Nick and Jan Hills will soon be moving. Their Son Adam is looking for a room to rent in Brickhill. If you have a room which you would consider offering for rent please telephone St Mark's office.

We are pleased to report that the St Mark's Portakabin has been purchased by St John's School, in Kempston. Our thanks to Mike Bonney for helping us to find a good home where we know that it will be put to a really worthwhile use. Expect the Portakabin to be removed in the next few weeks, work will then commence on the new building and hopefully be finished around Christmas or early in the New Year. St Mark's Church Council have agreed for the work to be contracted to Meadsway builders who provided the lowest quote in the tendering process. We are grateful to John Day who has agreed to act as project manger throughout the building process.

"Da Vinci mass" The Dean and Chapter of Manchester Cathedral are advertising a "Da Vinci mass" with a spoof of the Da Vinci Code poster (seen above). In the line-up are Canon Andrew Shanks, Canon Anne Hollinghurst, the Very Revd Rogers Govender, Canon Robin Gamble, and the Ven. Andrew Ballard. Controversy continues about the film, which opens today. An ORB poll of 1005 adults found that 60 per cent of those who had read the novel thought that there was truth to the claim that Jesus had fathered a child with Mary Magdalene; 17 per cent thought that Opus Dei was a murderous sect. India has delayed the launch of the film in response to protests; and Christians in Thailand have urged censors to cut the final 15 minutes.



If you would like to consider the Christian response to this extraordinary film, then visit our website Thisischurch.com, where you will find an extremely helpful address by The Reverend Ross Royden. We are grateful to Ross for making this available to us for reproduction.

Rest In Peace

On the Sunday following a funeral service we remember in church those who have died. We light a candle to symbolise the light of Christ which eternally shines and brings hope. If you would like a person remembered in our service when the candle is lit, perhaps on an anniversary or birthday, please inform the ministers, or telephone the church office.

Frank Leslie Cornish
David John Anstee
Wendy Wilkes
Gwen August

May the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.'



Rest in Peace

The funeral of Edgar York will take place at Putnoe Heights Church on Thursday 25 May at 1.00pm

The funeral of Dora Edith Griffiths will take place at Bedford Cemetery, Norse Road, on Tuesday 23 May at 1.45pm

The funeral of Mary Jane Barton will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 26 May at 10.45am